

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9b
Columbia River Compact
September 18, 2013

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 25, 2013

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management limits were included in Fall Fact Sheet #1
- 717,488 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam through September 17. These counts include 658,049 bright stock fish and 59,079 tules. The tule count includes 8,089 adult size jack tules.
- TAC met on September 16 and updated the URB run to 832,500 at the mouth. This will be a record high URB run. TAC also updated the BPH run to 69,000 at the mouth. The Mid-Columbia Bright (MCB) stock is expected to be 154,300 fish at the river mouth. The total upriver fall Chinook run is a record run with 1,055,800 upriver fall Chinook expected to enter the Columbia River. TAC expects over 950,000 upriver fall Chinook to pass Bonneville Dam. Approximately 36% of the adult fall Chinook at Bonneville have been adipose fin clipped. A large proportion of the unclipped fish will be natural origin fish.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has reported that they have begun spawning fish and that their escapement goal of 7,000 fish including 4,000 females is expected to be met. They are collecting broodstock from throughout the run.
- The adult fall Chinook count at McNary Dam is 169,207. The 60,000 fish escapement goal was met on September 7.
- The adult fall Chinook count at Lower Granite Dam is 19,384 through September 17. The cumulative adult fall Chinook counts at Lower Granite, Little Goose and Lower Monumental Dams are all record high counts to date since the construction of the four lower Snake River Dams. Yesterday, 3,436 adult fall Chinook passed Lower Granite. This is a record daily fall Chinook count and hopefully indicates passage issues are improving. Approximately 29% of the adult fall Chinook at Lower Granite have been adipose fin clipped to date. Because around half of the hatchery fall Chinook releases in the Snake River are clipped, this low clip rate at Lower Granite suggests that there are good numbers of natural origin Snake River fall Chinook in the return.
- Counts of A and B Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam for July 1-September 17 totals 204,224 fish. These include 90,100 unclipped fish (approximately 44% unclipped). TAC has updated the A index run size to 205,000 at Bonneville including 86,000 wild fish. This week, TAC downgraded the B steelhead run size to 20,000. Steelhead counts have remained lower than average, and it is possible that further downgrades could be made for the B steelhead run. Only a very small number of B sized steelhead have been sampled to date at Bonneville Dam, which suggests the B steelhead to date are performing less than expected.

- The adult coho count at Bonneville Dam is 21,404 fish through September 17. The cumulative coho count to date is the lowest since 1998. Approximately 26% of the adult coho passing Bonneville Dam are ad-clipped. Less than half of the early stock coho releases above Bonneville are ad-clipped which suggests some portion of the run is natural origin coho.

2013 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Fall season treaty harvest to date is shown in the Table below
- Commercial sales began at 6:00 AM on Monday August 12 for platform and hook and line Yakama Nation tributary fisheries. Sales are expected to continue throughout the fall season.
- The fifth week of commercial gillnet fishing is in progress. The catches shown for this week are modeled based on the actual net counts and updated catch rates from the first four gillnet periods.
- Full coded wire tag (CWT) data are not yet available for the tribal catch. The Chinook stock composition will be revised as complete CWT data become available. This should not be an immediate management concern due to the relatively low URB harvest rate to-date in the tribal fishery.
- Steelhead stock composition estimates are still preliminary, but are not expected to change much as monitoring data are finalized.
- The catches for next week's proposed fishery is also modeled using the average catch rates of earlier fishing periods.
- The projected tribal B steelhead catch is modeled based on a run size of just under 20,000 using an allowed 13% harvest rate. Actual B steelhead catches were less than projected for last week. This results in a projection for this week that is less than was stated at last week's compact but still roughly twice last week's catch.

2013 Fall Season Tribal Harvest									
Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	Adult URB	Adult MCB	Adult Tule	Total Steelhead catch	B Steelhead	Coho
Platform/ Permit	8/1- 8/18		1,327	1,157	31	0	4,100	110	11
Gillnet #1	8/19-8/21	403	4,505	4,035	132	262	1,016	198	11
Gillnet #2	8/26-8/30	655	25,378	19,715	1,263	4,373	1,200	79	100
Gillnet #3	9/3-9/7	726	45,903	35,698	2,287	7,918	1,775	107	172
Gillnet #4	9/10-9/14	682	51,450	25,000	20,050	6,400	2,550	126	110
SubTotal			128,563	85,605	23,763	18,953	10,641	620	404
Gillnet #5 projection	9/16-9/20	610	49,300	32,700	10,300	6,300	2,000	370	600
SubTotal			177,863	118,305	34,063	25,253	12,641	990	1,004
Gillnet #6 Projection	9/24-9/27	600	37,300	20,200	12,900	4,200	2,100	450	550
Late Fall								100	
Total			215,163	138,505	46,963	29,453	14,741	1,540	1,554
Allowed				249,750			4,740	2,535	
Remaining				111,245				995	

<i>Recommendation: 2013 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6:00 AM Tuesday September 24 through 6:00 PM Friday September 27	(3.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Gear:	Gillnet. 8 inch minimum mesh size.	
Sanctuaries	Standard sanctuaries for this gear type are in place. The Standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will be reduced to a 150 foot radius around the hatchery ladder.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from the Bonneville Pool (38 to 54 inches fork length) and from The Dalles and John Day Pools (43 to 54 inches fork length) may be retained for subsistence purposes. Fish caught during the open periods may be sold after the period concludes.	
Additional Rules:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.	

- At the end of this week, the tribes project that the treaty fishery will have reached a 14.2% URB harvest rate and a 5.1% B steelhead harvest rate. Based on the projection for next week's fishery, the URB harvest rate at the end of next week would be 16.6% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 7.9%.
- A B steelhead run of 11,846 would be needed for the tribal fishery to remain within allowed limits after the expected harvest in next week's tribal gillnet fishery and 100 B steelhead for the late fall platforms and possible Drano Lake fishery.
- Tribal staff will monitor fisheries and report catches on a weekly basis. Net counts will be done each week to determine fishing effort.
- Depending on run size updates and actual catches, it is possible enough impacts will be available for additional gillnet opportunity during the week of September 30.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes will request a Compact Hearing to be held on Thursday September 26 in case there is an opportunity to consider an additional commercial gillnet fishing period.